

DFL - Alden Project

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state library official, tested the master plan against the potential of the Alden building. They found a perfect match.

Constructed in 1927, this handsome brick school had seen thousands of Duxbury children pass through its portals from its prominent perch on a hill overlooking the town campus. It had first been the site of Duxbury High School. When the Ellison High School was constructed in the 1960s, the building later housed the elementary school. By renovating Alden into a modern library, it was determined the town could both preserve its past and provide a vital future.

With Town Meeting authorization in 1992, a project architect, Norman S. Baier, was hired to design a state-of-the-art library within the renovated school. Funding sources for the \$6.3 million project included: \$3 million from town funds, \$2.185 million grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a \$200,000 federal grant, and over \$1 million in donations from Duxbury families.

The list of Duxbury residents who have worked on this project is a long one:

Long Range Planning Committee, 1988-91: Deborah Bornheimer, chairman, Diane Alonghi, Jane Bradley, Martin Delano, Alexandra Earle, Christopher Flanagan, Gerald Kriegel, Priscilla MacCallum, John Sinclair, and Marcia Solberg.

Library Design Committee, 1992-93: Jane Bradley and Deborah Bornheimer, co-chairmen. Library Trustees: John Sinclair, Lynne Walsh, and Corinne Woodworth. Staff: Nancy Denman, children's librarian; Joanne Lamothe and Janice Neubauer, current and past library directors. At-large members: James Grinnell, Gerald Kriegel, Priscilla MacCallum, Nancy Pratt, Marcia Solberg, and David Vogler.

Designer Selection Committee, 1991-92: Alex Seid, John Canty, and Abdulkader Hamadeh.

Capital Campaign Committee: Rodger Smith, chairman, Deborah Bornheimer, Joan Collins, Donald Dehart, Michael Dewire, Michael Driscoll, Dan Dunn, Laura Dunn, Derek McDonald, Thomas O'Neill, Keith Pratt, Janet Schwartz, Kevin Tedeschi, Rosamond Thompson, David Thompson, Alice Vogler, Gale Willauer, Jay Woodruff, Stephen Woodworth, and Debra Zildjian. Millennium Chairman, Judith Dinneen; Millennium Plaque Chairman, Deborah Britten; Opening Festivities Chairman, Barbara Kiley.

Library Project Was a Community Effort

The path to the opening of the new Duxbury Free Library on Alden St. has been one of 10 years' duration and has involved a large group of Duxbury citizens who were dedicated to the library and realized the need for its expansion.

In 1988, Town Meeting authorized a Library Long Range Planning Committee to hire an architect and library consultant and to prepare a master plan. After 2 years' work under the direction of Committee Chairman Deborah Bornheimer, this plan called for expansion of the St. George St. building to 35,000 square feet. However, just as the master plan was nearing completion, the School Committee decided to close the nearby Upper Alden School, due to declining enrollment. Town officials urged the library committee to look at the building.

The library architect and consultants, including a